

during his fifty years plus in jazz, not only as a pianist, composer, author, activist, teacher, lecturer, and actor, but also as a radio and television personality. Though Dr. Billy Taylor is seventy-seven years old, he's more than young at heart. His current schedule is chock full of performances while he also serves on the faculty at the University of Massachusetts, where he received one of fifteen other honorary doctorates. His series Jazz at the Kennedy Center, an ongoing series of demonstrations-discussions of the history of jazz, is wonderful. He hosts intimate sessions of performance and conversation which enables participants to gain insight into jazz by hearing the music, memories and unique philosophies of some of the greatest musicians jazz has produced.

In 1971, Billy Taylor became the first African American to lead a band on a talk show when he fronted an ensemble of all-stars on the David Frost Show for four years. I know from personal experience, that aside from being a stupendous musician, he's also an incredible human being. He has great respect for other people, and has a wonderful aura of niceness and gentility.

Dr. Taylor founded Jazzmobile, which brings free performances to hundreds of thousands of people. His awards include two Peabodys, an Emmy, and the first Certificate of Recognition given by the U.S. Congressional Arts Caucus and it is with immense pleasure that in this tribute I join the ranks of those saluting the great Dr. Billy Taylor.

TRIBUTE TO CARL TRACOFF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I pay tribute to one of the leading citizens of Indiana's First Congressional District, Mr. Carl Traicoff, of Highland, Indiana. After serving as one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished, compassionate, and dedicated teachers for twenty-seven years, Carl announced his retirement on Saturday, August 22, 1998.

A 1956 graduate of Lew Wallace High School in Gary, Carl enrolled as a student at Kansas State University, which he attended for one year. In 1958, he transferred to Culver-Stockton University where, in 1960, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education and Health. Carl continued his education at Northeast Missouri, now Truman State, earning a Master's degree in Physical Education, Health, and Administration. While attending graduate school, Carl also worked as a girls basketball coach, beginning his long and distinguished coaching career.

From 1960 through 1966, he served as a basketball coach at the high schools of Louistown, Clarence, and Centralia. In 1966, he moved back to Indiana's First Congressional District and began teaching and coaching at Calumet High School, in unincorporated Calumet Township, Lake County, Indiana. As Calumet High School's coach, Carl posted 417 wins, for a career total of 477 wins. Indeed, along with these wins, his teams won four Sectional Titles, and he was honored by his

fellow coaches as Coach of the Year six times. Though Carl is acknowledged for his coaching ability, his teaching successes have often been overlooked. He made his mark on the Calumet High School curriculum by instituting a Life Management course and influenced nearly every student that attended the Calumet High School by teaching this class, as well as Health, annually. This legacy, more than any coaching award, is what will live as Carl's greatest achievement. Indeed, his dedication and caring is represented through his four Teacher of the Year Awards, as well as his Inland Steel Teacher of the Year Award.

Carl was always a dedicated and caring coach and teacher. Though he spent most time and effort on his players and students, this did not diminish his devotion to his wife, Margie, and their daughter, Karen. His professional success was complemented by an even more rewarding family life. Now that he has retired, Carl plans to spend much of his time with Margie and Karen, who now works for NASA. He also, he continues to serve as a member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, as an instructor and local basketball camps, and as a teacher at Purdue University Calumet.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Carl Traicoff for his lifetime of dedication, service, and leadership to the students and faculty of Calumet High School, as well as the people of Northwest Indiana. Carl's efforts as an educator and a basketball coach blended together to help kids make the most of their potential and earn their success in the world. Northwest Indiana's community has certainly been rewarded by the true service and uncompromising dedication displayed by Carl Traicoff.

IN HONOR OF SAINT WENDELIN PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my best wishes to the parish community of Saint Wendelin Church as they celebrate their ninety-fifth year in Cleveland's Ohio City neighborhood. For almost a century, Saint Wendelin's has served as a spiritual refuge, opening its doors to any soul in search of peace.

Originally serving the Slovak community of Cleveland's near west side, the ministry of Saint Wendelin's began in 1903. It was on May 3rd of that year that the community received permission to found Saint Wendelin Parish. A small church was soon erected, and on December 6, 1903, Father Koudelka celebrated Saint Wendelin's first mass. Not long after, the Sisters of Notre Dame established Saint Wendelin's School. The order would continue to provide quality Catholic education for the next seventy years.

In 1925, the current church and school complex was dedicated. Non-territorial, Saint Wendelin's welcomes all believers to join in worship. It is a testament to the Saint

Wendelin's ministry that Catholics from all corners on the city answer the call to celebrate at the little church on Columbus Avenue.

Cleveland's strong tradition of Catholic education continues at Saint Wendelin's under the direction of Ursuline Sisters with their operation of Urban Community School. Saint Wendelin's facilities serve as a second home to the 300 students of Urban Community. Saint Wendelin's also serves as the headquarters for Heartbeats, Inc., a ministry operated by the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, supporting women from third world countries.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the parish community of Saint Wendelin Church and its pastor, Rev. Jerome Lajack, as they celebrate mass with Bishop Anthony Pilla in commemoration of 95 years in service to God. A community bound by its faith, the believers of Saint Wendelin's are committed to doing justice, both in the church's surrounding neighborhoods and the world beyond. Let us pray that Saint Wendelin parish continues as a beacon of Christian charity as we enter into the next millennium.

A TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH M. GOMES—"MR. SAN PABLO"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of a truly remarkable individual, Mr. Joseph M. Gomes. I know of no other person who has had such an all encompassing influence on his community. Joe's name is synonymous with the city he represents, and he cannot be denied the moniker, "Mr. San Pablo".

Joe has made San Pablo his home for the greater part of 70 years. It is where he and his lovely wife, Mary, chose to settle and raise their family. Joe spent 35 years with American Standard and another 9 years with Phoenix Iron Works, before ending one career to pursue another. In 1980, Joe was elected to his first term on the San Pablo City Council, and a life of public service was born. Over the past two decades, Joe's leadership on the Council has guided San Pablo through a transformation from a small, isolated community to a thriving urban city—a city which celebrates its cultural diversity, neighborhood spirit and livability.

But Joe is not content to simply fulfill the role of elected official. His commitment extends to active participation in virtually every local club or organization, from the Chamber of Commerce, the Exchange Club, the Eagles and the Moose Lodge to the Salesian Boys & Girls Club and the Brookside Community Health Clinic. Joe's work has always been led by his heart, his concern and caring for all members of his community. Through his selfless service and tireless involvement, Joe has personally touched the life of each and every resident of San Pablo.

I am personally honored to call Joe Gomes a friend and a mentor. On behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I would like to salute him and his work.

50TH BIRTHDAY OF THE VERNON
HILL AMERICAN LEGION POST
NO. 435

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 1998

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 50th year that the Vernon Hill American Legion Post has served the community and honored our veterans in Worcester. To commemorate this event, I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the history of Post No. 435 as recounted by Past Commander, John F. O'Connor. This post of the American Legion has a unique history, and I believe that Mr. O'Connor's account clearly shows that the group of men and women involved with the Vernon Hill Post are true American heroes.

The text of his history follows.

In the fall of 1947, a group of young veterans were standing in front of Joe's Spa, across the street from Vernon Hill Park, getting ready to start a touch football game. There, they were approached to attend a meeting at 9 Ames Street at the home of long-time legionnaire, James B. Lawless, to discuss forming an American Legion Post on Vernon Hill.

Somewhat reluctantly, the young veterans gave up their touch football game and walked to the Lawless home two blocks away, and signed the request to the Worcester County Commander, Bill Blanchard, for permission to create the Vernon Hill Post American Legion. He denied the initial request because Worcester already had 16 American Legion Posts, more than an adequate number. Commander Blanchard sent word that if the Vernon Hill Veterans wanted to join, there were plenty of nearby posts to accommodate them. In typical Vernon Hill fashion, the group of reluctant joiners now became determined to have their own post.

Mr. Lawless, a World War I veteran, with Edward F. Wall, presented the Post's case before the Worcester County Council meeting in Upton. Their persuasiveness and persistence paid off, and a charter was granted in the Spring of 1948 to the Vernon Hill Post American Legion #435.

That was the inauspicious debut of what is now the second largest American Legion Post in Worcester County, numbering almost 600 members in the fiftieth year of its existence.

The Post needed quarters, but we also needed a treasury to pay the rent. Ed Wall, and another member, the late Chester G. Trembowicz, the only ones that were working at the time, lent the Post the money to rent our first quarters in a vacant store at 35 Granite Street for \$35 a month. Finally having a "Home", the Post started to raise funds. A bar was constructed with a can of beer selling for 20 cents. A ping-pong table was installed in the cellar and one of the first television sets in the neighborhood was purchased with proceeds from a minstrel show. A huge safe (still being used today) which almost caused the demise of member Billy Reynolds, was donated from its old home on Lamartine Street to Granite Street. In 1951, the Vernon Hill Post purchased a home at 154 Vernon Street for the sum of \$16,500. The Post continued to grow in its new home that featured what the late Joe Fitzgerald called the "Chinese room."

As the post grew and prospered, so did its social functions. Who can forget the New

Year's parties at the old "Johnny Hynnes Ballroom"? How many can remember the Past Commanders' banquets that graduated from an upstairs loft at Alaries Tower House on the Cherry Valley/Worcester Line, to the Towncrest on Lake Avenue, to Jimmy O'Day's Edgemere Lodge? How many present can recall the sumptuous steak dinner arranged by Tim Mara and the late Ed Piliski at Thompson's Lodge in Westboro? Everyone present at the banquet marveled at the deal our two chairman had arranged—until they got the bill that almost bankrupted our meager treasury.

Who among us can forget the first New Year's Eve party held in these quarters before we had tile on the floor? We danced on the cement floor and had black legs for a week. A great time was had by all on that first occasion in our own hall, the first of many great times in this room.

The state convention in 1948 was held in Worcester, a rather huge affair at the time . . . World War I veterans joined by World War II veterans just blending into civilian life. Who can forget the huge parade in downtown Worcester featuring superlative marching bands and handsome Governor, Maurice Tobin, in a Panama suit? The new Post Vernon Hill, now about 30 strong, marched in the back of the host delegation behind a huge banner that read "Worcester's Baby Post, Vernon Hill American Legion #435, watch us grow". How prophetic. John McDavitt, a navy veteran, now residing in Brookfield, was dressed as an infant, albeit smoking a cigar and possessing a can of the beverage of moderation, pushed in a baby carriage by his "father", the late Bill Wall, and his "mother" Connie Brosnihan, now residing in Enfield, Connecticut.

In 1966, a bright young navy veteran brought what many older, more experienced, more mature members thought was a preposterous proposition to construct a hospital in Vietnam to honor the boys and girls of Worcester County who lost their lives in this faraway conflict. In 1967, after much effort and preparation by the initiator of the project, the day arrived when all of the "Doubting Thomases" became firm believers in Past Commander Frank Carroll. We became such believers that if Frank said Pope John Paul II is expected to attend tonight's affair, we would keep an eye on the door.

Who could ever forget this fabulous extravaganza? General Westmoreland, the commissioner of baseball, General Eckerrett, and Under Secretary of State Katzenbach drank coffee in the kitchen right in these quarters with Jim Donahue and many other dignitaries. At the bar, the late Gordon McCrea told stories about his football days at Gaskill Field. Who among us doesn't have an avid memory of the affair at the Memorial Auditorium? Present were the celebrities on stage with Marilyn Mayes. There was security everywhere, and the pride of our membership was unmistakable. This humanitarian gesture to assist Dr. Turpin of Project Concern to construct a hospital in the Central Highlands of Vietnam was motivated by an American Legion Post in Worcester led by its imaginative, fearless, persistent, young Commander, Frank Carroll.

The vast number of volunteers, plus the organizational genius called Frank Carroll, made the project a huge success. The Vernon Hill Post American Legion was brought into the spotlight and our post became the most recognizable and envied Veteran's organization in the entire state.

This organization is also extremely active in youth and community affairs. The post's generosity to all who are deprived and unfortunate is well known, but its finest hour is its magnanimous support of the blind children in Ashburnham, Massachusetts.

This post is deeply involved in civil affairs coupled with the welfare of our own community and state. In 1969, an issue of deep concern to all our citizens was automobile insurance. Does that have a familiar ring? In this very room a forum was held to inform our members and all our citizens about a new form of auto insurance. One of the panelists who was proposing the system was a young State Representative from Brookline who went on to some degree of fame and notoriety, Michael Dukakis.

And what American Legion Post in the world had its own basketball and softball leagues where everyone who played had to be a member? Shea's Tavern, Leavitt Drugs, Old Timers, The Associates, and the Livewires were all winners. Does anyone remember the classic confrontation in a gym not far from here between the late Past Commander Bob Bruso and a young Priest, Father Ed Tinsley, now the Vicar General of the Diocese of Worcester?

Even when we didn't have much of a treasury, the post sponsored a team in the Gehrig-Ruth League which continues to this day. This late Jim Spaulding and child welfare chairman, the late Past Commander Ed Cove put together the finest charitable program of an American Legion Post anywhere. In addition to baseball, our post has an unparalleled record in the area of programs for our youth. The scholarship program has aided innumerable sons and daughters of Post members to secure education at the collegiate level. The Boys State Chairman Past Commander John F. O'Connor and many members have participated in the mock trial at the convocation of Boys State.

Who could ever forget the "Minstrel Show" assisted by the late Bob Brady and the spontaneous with of the Past Commander, the late James Spaulding. These various musical delights features many talents, now departed, included John "Blue Eyes" Mahoney. In recent years, we were entertained by our Vernon Hill Legionaries, led by Past Commander Howard Harvey. Who can't reflect on the many occasions that our talented, dedicated choristers, George Handley, Mike Donovan, Pat Carmody and our own little girl now grown to a young lady, Kristen Carlstrom, enthralled us and the always full-capacity audiences?

Our own St. Patrick Day "Hooleys" were always great affairs. Does anyone here remember the Irish Tenor, Tom Riley? The fabulous corned beef and cabbage meals put out mainly by Chet Mills and the late Dick Mitchell were something?

Speaking of food, does anyone remember the sumptuous meals of Duffy Caterers and his Harvard beets? How many can remember the wonderful evenings of superb music of Townsmen and the gifted Janie Morin, fresh from her appearance at Fenway Park in 1967? Down through the years we also had some superb Italian and Polish nights.

What veteran's organization holds its own Memorial Mass and breakfast honoring its deceased members? Recently, the Mass breakfast have been held right here in these quarters with great success and numbers. Citizens of Worcester who have made a contribution to the well-being of our community are honored with an award each year. The award is now highly coveted and respected in this city.

The Vernon Hill Post was the first group of any sort to go on record in favor of the construction of the Worcester Civic Center, now known as the Centrum. Where would Worcester be if we didn't have the Centrum now? The Vernon Hill Post was also the first to endorse the connecting highway from downtown Worcester to the Massachusetts Turnpike in Millbury, a vital link to the economic well-being of our city.